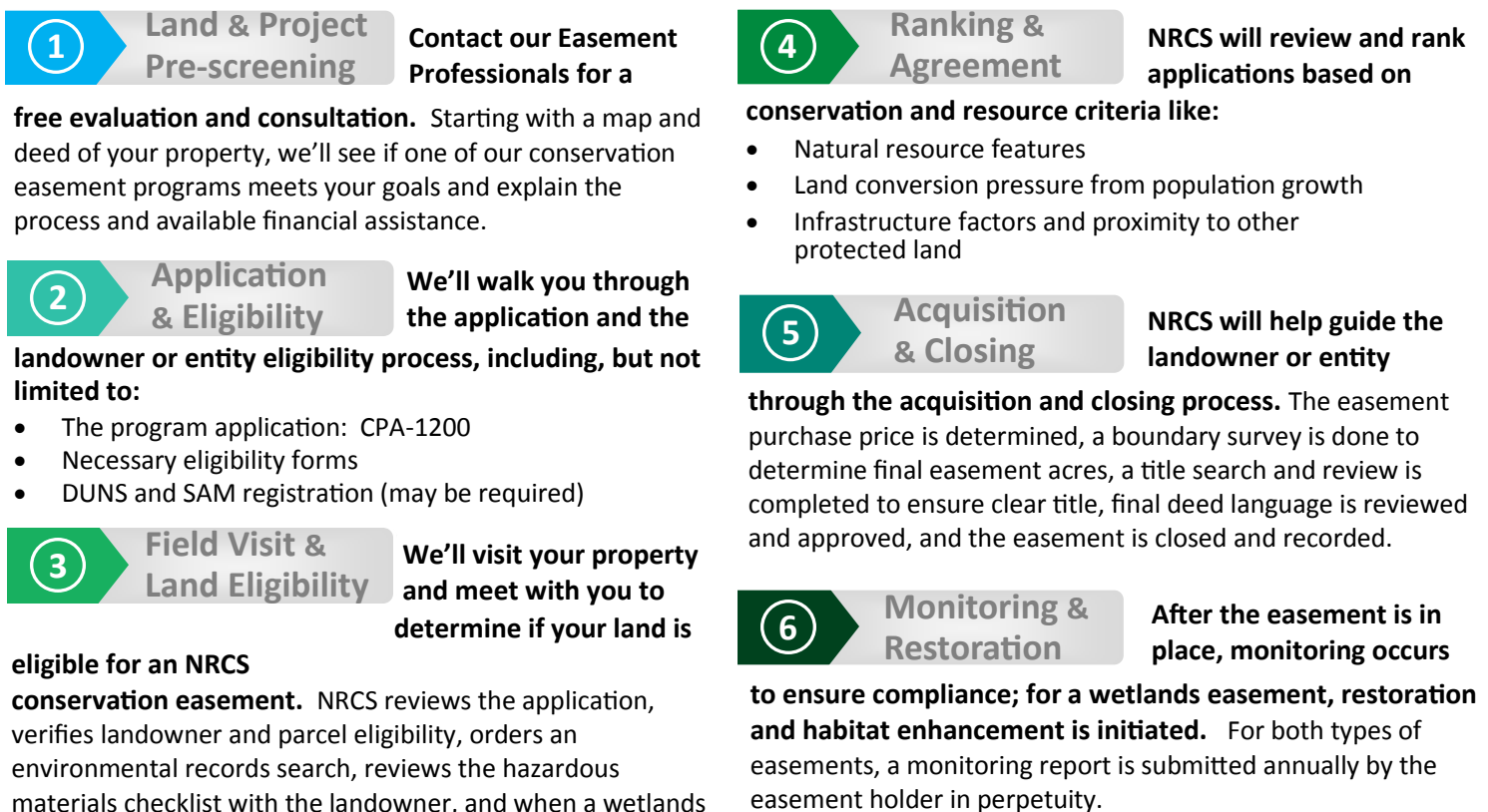


6 Steps to Conservation Easements



Do you own farmland, forest, or wetlands and want to protect and/or restore them?

Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help you protect your land.



Approximate Timeline: (Congressional actions can affect timelines including, but not limited to, the release of program funds.)





**NEW
HAMPSHIRE**

Conservation Districts

Belknap County Conservation District

2 Airport Rd., Unit 1
Gilford, NH 03249
603-527-5580
www.belknapccd.org

Carroll County Conservation District

P.O. Box 533
Conway, NH 03818
603-447-2771

Cheshire County Conservation District

11 Industrial Park Dr.
Walpole, NH 03608
603-756-2988
www.cheshireconservation.org

Coos County Conservation District

4 Mayberry Lane
Lancaster, NH 03584
603-788-4651

Grafton County Conservation District

19 Archertown Rd., Suite 1
Orford, NH 03777
603-353-4651
www.graftonccd.org

Hillsborough County Conservation District

#468, Rte. 13 South
Milford, NH 03055
603-673-2409
www.hillsboroughccd.com

Merrimack County Conservation District

10 Ferry St., Suite 211
Concord, NH 03301
603-223-6023
www.merrimackccd.org

Rockingham County Conservation District

110 North Rd.
Brentwood, NH 03833
603-679-2790
www.rockinghamccd.org

Strafford County Conservation District

264 County Farm Rd.
Dover, NH 03820
603-749-3037
www.straffordccd.org

Sullivan County Conservation District

95 County Farm Rd.
Unity, NH 03743
603-542-4891
www.sullivancountynh.gov

New Hampshire Association
of Conservation Districts:

www.nhacd.org



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The 2014 Farm Bill combines the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), into two types of easements: Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE).

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE):

- ◆ ALE will probably work much like FRPP in that NRCS will pay a maximum of 50% of the appraised easement value, and will not hold the easement.
- ◆ A sponsoring entity must submit the application package to NRCS (including the landowner application and eligibility forms, parcel, and entity workbooks), hold the easement, and match a minimum of 50% of the NRCS contribution (or 25% of the appraised easement value).
- ◆ The entity is also responsible for obtaining a title search, boundary survey, appraisal, baseline documentation, and negotiating the deed language between NRCS and the landowner.
- ◆ Funds are obligated to the sponsoring entity through a Cooperative Agreement. The 2014 Cooperative Agreement template should be available at the end of April or beginning of May.
- ◆ The sponsoring entity (typically a Land Trust or Conservation Commission) must have a DUNS number and have an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) at the time of fund obligation. It is unknown at this time whether or not these rules also apply to the landowner if they are a landowner-entity (such as an LLC, Corporation, Trust).
- ◆ Land eligibility criteria have not yet been established. FRPP was: 1) minimum 50% prime, unique, statewide, or locally important soils; or 2) historical or archeological significance. (all parcels are limited to a maximum of 66% forestland), and the entity match must be demonstrated at the time of application.

Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE):

- ◆ WRE will probably work much like WRP, in that there is no entity sponsorship required, the agreement is directly between NRCS and the landowner, the easement is held by NRCS, and the land must have been owned by the applicant for a minimum of 2 years prior to filing an application.
- ◆ The new land eligibility criteria has not been established yet, but the WRP land eligibility required a minimum of 50% of the land to be 1) wetland or 2) riparian land that connected to other riparian land already under conservation easement.
- ◆ NRCS is accepting applications on the new CPA-1200 form (dated 2/14), but they cannot be processed until additional guidance from National Headquarters is received.

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Located at the State Office in Durham

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NRCS New Hampshire Offices:

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2 Madbury Rd.
Durham, NH 03824
Richard P. Ellsmore, State Conservationist
603-868-7581

Concord Field Service Center

Serving Merrimack and Belknap Counties
10 Ferry St., Suite 211
Concord, NH 03301
603-223-6023

Conway Field Service Center

Serving Carroll and Belknap Counties
73 Main St.
Conway, NH 03818
603-447-2771

Epping Field Service Center

Serving Rockingham and
Strafford Counties
629 Calef Highway, Suite 203
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603-679-1587

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